

NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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First Quarter F.Y. 92 Safety Report

The first quarter of FY 1992 ended December 31, 1991. Lost time mishap statistics for this period were favorable for both civil servants and contractor employees.

Listed below is a summary of lost time mishaps:

	Lost Times Cases	Days Lost
Civil Servants -	2	4
Contractors -	2	6

Performance Summary (rate per 200,000 hours worked.

	Year-to-Date	Goal (not to exceed)
Civil Servants	0.29	0.37
Contractors	0.36	0.82

Laser Pointers

In recent months there has been a significant increase in the number of "Laser Pointers" present in our workplace. These small hand held lasers are used as pointers by many speakers making both formal and informal presentations. The power output of these units is usually 5 mw, emitted in the ocular focus (visible) red region. As such, these lasers do represent a potential eye hazard.

While these lasers are not considered research equipment, they must nonetheless be handled and used with care. The only control measure applicable to these lasers, as defined in LHB 1710.8, "Nonionizing Radiation", is that an appropriate warning label shall be affixed to a conspicuous place on the laser pointer. Please be certain laser pointers within your organization comply with this requirement.

If you have any questions regarding the safe use of this type pointer, contact Phillip Babb, Radiation

Safety Officer, at telephone extension 43210.

Help Your Smoke Detector Do Its Job

Although 80 percent of American households have at least one smoke detector, as many as half are not working because the batteries are old or missing. Fire safety experts say that maintaining smoke detectors and flashlights is one of the least expensive, but most effective ways to reduce fire deaths and injuries.

"Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" is a national education program that encourages people to adopt a new fire safety habit. When you change your clocks back from day-light-saving time in the fall, change the batteries in your smoke detector and your flashlight.

A working smoke detector can double your chances of surviving a fire by providing critical early warning and escape time. Working flashlights can save lives because they help fire victims escape through disorienting smoke and darkness. A flashlight can also be used to signal for help.

Mark your calendar so that you remember to change your smoke detector and flashlight batteries when you change your clock.

Family Safety & Health, A National Safety Council Publication. Fall 1991 edition.